

THE POINT

The Point, the earliest known house in Cambridge, built between 1706 and 1710 was located just off of High Street at the intersection of the Choptank River and Cambridge Creek, until torn down in the 20 century. The oldest part of the house was built by John Kirk, Lord Baltimore's agent for Dorchester County, who owned a large amount of land in Cambridge. Additions to one and one-half story frame house were made by Robert Goldsborough around 1770, by James Steele around 1796, and by a Dr. William R. Hayward in the late 19th century.

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MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

NOMINATION FORM for the NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME					
COMMON:					
AND/OR HISTORIC: The Point					
2. LOCATION					
STREET AND NUMBER: formerly located at the intersection of Cambridge Creek and the Choptank River					
CITY OR TOWN: Cambridge					
STATE: Maryland			COUNTY: Dorchester		
3. CLASSIFICATION					
CATEGORY (Check One)		OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object		<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both		Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)					
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment		<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum		<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____
Comments _____					
4. OWNER OF PROPERTY					
OWNER'S NAME:					
STREET AND NUMBER:					
CITY OR TOWN:			STATE:		
5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION					
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:					
Dorchester County Courthouse					
STREET AND NUMBER:					
206 High Street					
CITY OR TOWN:			STATE:		
Cambridge			Maryland		21613
Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #):					
6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS					
TITLE OF SURVEY:					
DATE OF SURVEY: <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local					
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:					
STREET AND NUMBER:					
CITY OR TOWN:			STATE:		

D-381

7. DESCRIPTION	
CONDITION	(Check One) <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins <input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	<div>(Check One)</div> <input type="checkbox"/> Altered <input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered
<div>(Check One)</div> <input type="checkbox"/> Moved <input type="checkbox"/> Original Site	
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE	
<p>Photographs show that this was a one and a half story frame house with a gable roof. Additions to the house, which was built around 1706-1710, were made in 1770, 1796, and the late 19th century.</p>	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

6. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- ☐ Pre-Columbian ☐ 16th Century ☒ 18th Century ☐ 20th Century
☐ 15th Century ☐ 17th Century ☒ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1706-1710, 1770, 1796, late 19th c.

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

History

The Point, formerly at the intersection of the Choptank River and the Cambridge Creek, was the oldest remaining dwelling of the original houses in Cambridge until torn down around the 1940's. The larger part of the house was built between 1706 and 1710 by John Kirk, Lord Baltimore's agent for Dorchester County, who owned a considerable amount of land in Cambridge. Two additional rooms were built by Robert Goldsborough about 1770, and the addition of two large rooms and a large square hall was made by James Steele when he acquired the property in 1796. Almost a century later, Dr. William R. Hayward further improved the property by the addition of a library. The Point was inherited from Col. John Kirk by his only daughter who married Rev. Thomas Howell, the first rector of historic Old Trinity at Church Creek. The Point was long owned by the descendants of Charles Goldsborough, James Steele purchasing it from William Goldsborough. One of his sons, Henry Maynadier Steele, married the daughter of Francis Scott Key, and to him his father bequeathed The Point. Removing to Anne Arundel County, Mr. Steele, in 1822, sold the place to William W. Eccleston, Register of Wills for Dorchester County. It then passed to his widow, who left it to her daughter Mrs. Eliza Hayward, wife of Dr. William R. Hayward, commissioner of the land office from 1870 to 1884. It was next owned by the Hayward's daughter and son-in-law Col. and Mrs. Clement Sullivane. Later it was owned by Governor Emerson C. Harrington.

This site is significant as the earliest known house in Cambridge.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Swepson, Earle, The Chesapeake Bay Country,
Thomsen-Ellis Company, Baltimore, Maryland, 1929

Sullivan, Col. Clement, article reprinted in the
Daily Banner, April 7, 1925

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

Acreage Justification:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:

Catherine L. Moore

ORGANIZATION

DATE

12/3/75

STREET AND NUMBER:

Route 3, Box 32

CITY OR TOWN:

Cambridge

STATE

Maryland

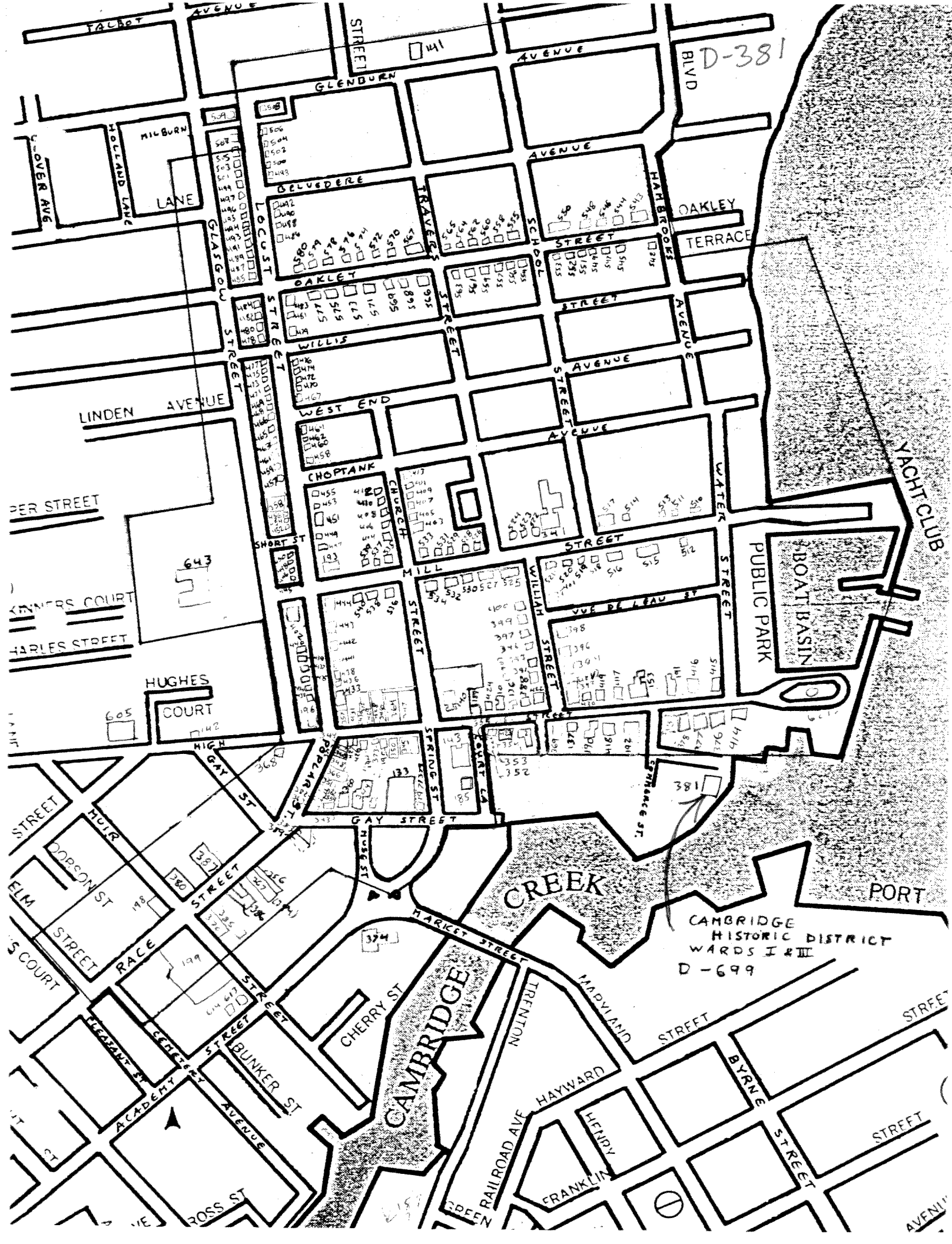
12.

State Liaison Officer Review: (Office Use Only)

Significance of this property is:

National ☐ State ☐ Local ☐

Signature



Built in 1709 by John Kirk, the Point is believed to have been the first house in Cambridge. About 1770, two additional rooms were built by Robert Goldsborough, a member of the Continental Congress. In 1796 two more rooms were added by James Steele, then the owner of the property; all additions were made in the architectural style of the oldest part of the dwelling. William Chatfield of Cincinnati purchased the interior paneling and moved it to Ohio; the house itself was demolished in the late 1930s.



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The Point, Cambridge

D-381

only photo: Earle, Sweeper, Maryland's Colonial Eastern Shore 1916

copy by Chuck Engstrom 12/78